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Grant projects now being accepted through Forests in Focus initiative

HELENA, Mont. – The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is now accepting requests for proposals (RFPs) for forest management projects around the state in connection with Governor Steve Bullock's Forests in Focus initiative.

"Forests in Focus is a landscape approach to Montana's forests across all ownerships," said DNRC Director John Tubbs. "We will invest in projects on state, private and tribal lands that restore forest health, reduce fire risk, protect watersheds and make forests more resilient."

The \$2 million available for projects will be delivered as cost-share, with recipients required to contribute 25 percent in matching funds for project costs. The program will be administered by the DNRC Forestry Division, with agency foresters working with recipients on project implementation.

The deadline to apply is September 10, 2014. The DNRC plans to award projects early in the fall so that work can commence immediately.

"We're looking for projects that have a variety of benefits, including restoration, risk reduction, forest stewardship, habitat enhancement and forest products utilization,"

said Roger Ziesak, Forest Practices Specialist with DNRC who will oversee the program.

Meetings will be held in Forsyth, Billings, Missoula and Kalispell to provide detailed information about the program and answer questions from prospective applicants. The complete schedule and the full RFP can be accessed online at the state's OneStop Vendor Information website:

<http://svc.mt.gov/gsd/OneStop/Solicitations.aspx?args=A9ADF86D88792B5D9B8761797F514402>

Earlier this month, Governor Bullock announced the initiative, which included investments from the state's fire suppression account toward sustainable forest management on non-federal lands in Montana.

The Forests in Focus Initiative has four key components: Forest Restoration and Industry Retention; Collaboration and Partnerships; Tribal, State and Private Forests; and Federal Forest Management. More information can be found on the Montana DNRC web site at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/>

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